

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-54 were pending, claims 34-54 were allowed, claims 1-9, 11-16, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 28, 32, 34 and 35 were rejected and claims 10, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29-31, 33 and 36 were objected to. In this response, claims 1 and 21 have been amended. Claims 19-20 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 55 and 56 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-18 and 21-56 are presented for examination.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 13-16, 18, 19, 22, 25, 28, 32, 34 and 35 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,321,231 to Jebens, et al. (hereinafter "Jebens"). Claim 3 was rejected as being unpatentable over Jebens in view of U.S. Patent 6,701,302 to Schaeffer, et al. (hereinafter "Schaeffer"). Claims 11-12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Jebens in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0158874 to Cao.

Claims 37-54 were allowed. Claims 10, 17, 20, 21, 24, 26, 27, 29-31, 33 and 36 were rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful examination, and for holding claims 37-54 allowable.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the limitation of claim 20, which the Examiner objected to for depending on a rejected base claim, but otherwise held allowable. Claim 1 now includes the limitations of the base claim (claim 1), the objected-to but otherwise allowable claim (20), and the intervening claim (claim 19, on which claim 20 depended). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request a notice of allowance. If the Examiner has any objections to the amendments

proposed by the applicant, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to resolve any such issues.


Applicants have further created new independent claim 55, which reflects the limitations of claim 26, also objected-to by the Examiner. Thus, newly added claim 55 should be held allowable as it reflects the language of an objected to claim (claim 26) including the intervening claim (claim 25) and base claim (claim 1).

Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and discussion set forth herein, the applicable rejections have been overcome. Accordingly, the present and amended claims should be found to be in condition for allowance. . **If the Examiner has any objections to the amendments proposed by the applicant, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 408-720-8300 x269 to resolve any such issues.**

If there are any additional charges/credits, please charge/credit our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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